

Dr. Guillemard, and they are young birds which in some respects approach to *L. erythrothorax*, a perfectly distinct species, with a different geographical distribution.

CHALCOPSITTACUS ATER (Scop.), Guillem. *ibid.* p. 622.

It appears to me that the specimens from Mysol with the forehead and the tibials red require comparison, as most likely they constitute a peculiar race, intermediate between *Ch. ater* and *Ch. insignis*, Oust. In my 'Ornitologia' I have already alluded to one or two specimens from Mysol showing those variations.

MANUCODIA CHALYBEATA, Penn., Guillem. *ibid.* p. 646.

Dr. Guillemard says that he is strongly inclined to regard this species and *M. atra* as identical. Dr. Meyer has already pronounced himself against Dr. Guillemard's opinion, on account of the different shape and dimensions of the bill in the two birds (*Zeitschr. f. ges. Orn.* 1885, p. 374); I shall only add, without repeating all I have said about the distinction of the two species, that the young birds of *M. chalybeata* are quite different from those of *M. atra*, and moreover the geographical distribution, contrary to Dr. Guillemard's opinion, is not the same. *Manucodia atra*, besides being found nearly everywhere in New Guinea, is a very common bird in the Aru Islands, where *M. chalybeata* does not occur.

Turin Zoological Museum, Feb. 5th, 1886.

XXI.—*Contributions to the Ornithology of the Philippine Islands.*—No. 2*. *On Additional Collections of Birds.* By R. G. WARDLAW RAMSAY, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

I HAVE received within the last few months, from my friend Mr. F. Maitland-Heriot, two further collections of birds which were obtained in the neighbourhood of Manilla. The more noteworthy species in these collections are:—

1. *FALCO MELANOGENYS.*

Falco melanogenys, Gld. P. Z. S. 1837, p. 139; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. i. p. 385.

* For No. 1 see 'Ibis,' 1884, pp. 330–335.

A female Falcon, not quite adult, is identified by Mr. J. H. Gurney as belonging to this species. The doubt expressed by the late Lord Tweeddale, Tr. Z. S. ix. p. 139 (Memoirs, p. 306), as to the occurrence of this species in the Philippines is thus removed. With reference to this specimen and another, said to have come from the same islands, in the Norwich Museum, Mr. Gurney writes *in epist.* as follows:—

“Both these Philippine Falcons are in the very characteristic plumage of the immature *F. melanogenys*; but it would be interesting to obtain, if possible, a fully adult Philippine-Islands example. These two are a little longer in the wing than Australian specimens; the largest Australian female of which I have a note has a wing-measurement of 13·50 inches, the Norwich example has it 13·70 inches, and yours 13·90 inches, whilst that of the female of *F. peregrinus* ranges from 14·10 to 14·75 inches.”

2. LIMNAETUS PHILIPPINENSIS (19)*.

Limnaetus philippensis, Gld., Tweedd. P. Z. S. 1878, p. 281 (p. 587).

Three specimens have been sent.

3. LOPHOTRIORCHIS KIENERI.

A young bird from Manilla is thus identified by Mr. J. H. Gurney.

4. NINOX PHILIPPINENSIS (29).

5. NINOX LUGUBRIS (31).

Obtained in S. Mindanao by Mr. A. H. Everett. One specimen now sent from Manilla.

6. PSEUDOPTYNX PHILIPPINENSIS (32)..

7. CEYX CYANOPECTUS (54 & 60).

8. CEYX MELANURA (58).

Both seem very common at Manilla.

* The numbers in brackets following the title are those of my revised list of Philippine Birds, App. Tweedd. Orn. Mem., and those following the references to Lord Tweeddale's writings indicate the page on which they will be found in the Memoirs.

9. *LYNCORNIS MACROTIS* (76).

10. *HIEROCOCCYX HYPERYTHRUS* (88).

Cuculus hyperythrus, Gld. P. Z. S. 1856, p. 96 (1856).

Hierococcyx pectoralis, Cab. Mus. Hein. iv. pt. 1, p. 27 (1862); Wald. Tr. Z. S. ix. p. 161 (p. 327); Tweed. P. Z. S. 1878, p. 946 (p. 637).

Hierococcyx fugax, Horsf. apud Salvad. Ucc. Born. p. 65; Wardlaw Ramsay, Ibis, 1884, p. 333.

Hierococcyx sparverioides, Vig. apud Schrenck, Voy. Amurland, p. 257, pl. 10.

Mr. Maitland-Heriot has sent me three adult and one young specimen of *H. hyperythrus* from Manilla, and as I have compared these with the type and with a large series of allied species in the British Museum, the Tweeddale and Hume collections, and also in that of Mr. Seeböhm, I am now of opinion that Count Salvadori was partly right in uniting this species to *H. fugax*, Horsf. (*l. c.*), inasmuch as many of the specimens attributed to the latter species in Malacca and Borneo, and perhaps Java, whence the type of *H. fugax* came, are really the young of *H. hyperythrus*, Gld. The range of *H. hyperythrus* is Japan, Amoorland, China, and the Philippine Islands, the young birds being found in Borneo and Malacca, and perhaps Sumatra and Java in the winter. It closely resembles *H. nasicolor*, Hodgs., which ranges from the Himalayas to Tenasserim, descending perhaps into the Malay peninsula, whence it has been recorded.

For some years I have possessed a specimen of a Cuckoo, somewhat like *H. sparverioides*, collected in the mountains of W. Sumatra by Mr. Carl Bock. As all the specimens that I have ever seen of *H. fugax*, Horsf., were in the striated plumage common to young Cuckoos, it occurred to me that perhaps my bird was the adult of that species; but I am now convinced that it is not so, but an undescribed species differing from *H. sparverioides* in being much smaller (wing 7.5) and in being of a much darker and richer brown above; the entire head and throat, moreover, is ashy grey, very different from the dark ashy beard of that species. I propose to call this species *HIEROCOCCYX BOCKI*, sp. n. It is not *H. nasicolor*, Bl.,

UPPER SURFACE BROWN.

Breast rufous; belly and abdomen barred.	{	Darker .. <i>H. locki</i> .	Wing 7.5 inches.	Throat uniform slate-colour.
	{	Lighter . <i>H. sparveroides</i> .	Wing 9 to 10 inches.	
	{	<i>H. fugax</i> .		
Breast and belly striated	{	<i>H. hyperythrus</i> , jun.		
	{	<i>H. nanus</i> .	Wing 5.5 to 6 inches.	

UPPER SURFACE ASHY.

		Paler .. <i>H. varius</i> .		
Breast and belly rufous; abdomen pure white	{	Darker {		Rufous paler, mixed with white.
		<i>H. nasicolor</i> .		
		<i>H. hyperythrus</i> .		Rufous darker, uniform or nearly so.

the type of which is only a small specimen of *H. sparverioides*; nor is it *H. strenuus*, Gld., said to have come from the Philippine Islands, which was described from a much distended skin of the same species.

On a closer examination of a good series of *H. fugax*, it is evident that many of the specimens are those of quite mature birds. It follows therefore that we have in *H. fugax* a species which in maturity retains a plumage which in most other Cuckoos would denote immaturity. The same remarks apply to the *H. nanus*, Hume, a pretty little Cuckoo from Tenasserim—in fact, a miniature of *H. fugax* (wing 5·5 to 6 inches). In *Cuculus sonnerati*, Lath., and *C. pravatus*, Horsf., we find two species which never get beyond what is known as the hepatic phase of plumage in Cuckoos. *H. fugax* and *H. nanus* resemble *H. sparverioides* and *H. bocki* in having the upper surface brown, but in the striations of the breast they are more like the young of *H. hyperythrus*.

The Cuckoos of this subgenus may be arranged as shown in the table on page 158.

11. CYORNIS HERIOTI, sp. nov.

Cyornis banyumas (Horsf.), apud Tweedd. P. Z. S. 1878, p. 615, ♀ (p. 610).

The female of the two birds sent from Palawan by Mr. A. H. Everett was attributed to *C. elegans* by Mr. Sharpe, Cat. B. iv. p. 447.

Lord Tweeddale was in error, I think, in referring it to *C. banyumas*, inasmuch as this specimen is a brown bird of the *C. rubeculoides* group, whilst *C. banyumas* belongs to the *C. tickellæ* group, in which the female is blue, like the male.

The bird now sent by Mr. Maitland-Heriot is a female, which most resembles *C. elegans*, but differs in having the throat and breast pale olive-brown instead of bright rufous. I propose to name it *C. herioti*, after the sender.

12. IOLE PHILIPPINENSIS (182).

It is worthy of note that the birds from Negros and Guimaras are much larger (wing 4·35 inches) than those from Luzon, Zebu, and N. Mindanao (wing 3·7 to 4 inches).

13. LOCUSTELLA LANCEOLATA.

New to the Philippine list.

14. CISTICOLA CURSITANS (197).

Cisticola cursitans, Tweedd. P. Z. S. 1878, p. 710 (p. 622).

New to the island of Luzon.

15. ANTHUS GUSTAVI (209).

Two specimens.

16. ALAUDA WATTERSI (266).

Alauda wattersi, Sw. P. Z. S. 1871, p. 389; Tweedd. P. Z. S. 1878, p. 710 (p. 623).

Three specimens of this Lark, identified by Lord Tweeddale with *A. wattersi*, which is closely allied to, if not identical with, *A. calivox*, Swinhoe, one of the numerous subspecies of *A. arvensis*.

Wing 3·3 inches.

It evidently breeds in the islands, as one of Mr. Heriot's specimens is that of quite a young bird.

17. MIRAFRA PHILIPPINENSIS, sp. nov.

Seven specimens of a small *Mirafra*, allied to *M. parva*, Swinhoe, of Flores, but very much darker in plumage than that or any of the other species.

Above deep brown, each feather margined with pale brown; lores and superciliaries yellowish white or buff; outer edge of some of the primaries and secondaries chestnut, which colour extends more or less over the shoulders, especially in young birds. Beneath buff, slightly rufous on the flanks and breast in some specimens; feathers of the throat and breast with a triangular brown spot. Wing 2·7 inches, tail 2, tarsus ·8.

18. PTILOCOLPA GRISEIPECTUS (280).

19. EXCALFACTORIA CHINENSIS (297).

The Philippine bird belongs to the true *E. chinensis*. See Wald. Tr. Z. S. ix. p. 224 (p. 387).

20. GALLICREX CINEREA (319).

21. PORZANA BAILLONI (322).

Porzana pygmaea (Naum.), Tweedd. Tr. Z. S. ix. p. 230 (p. 392).

Two specimens sent.

The Philippine habitat is thus confirmed.

22. PORZANA TABUENSIS.

One specimen is sent. This species is new to the Philippine list.

23. CICONIA EPISCOPUS (348).

New to Luzon.

24. GORSACHIUS MELANOLOPHUS (360).

An adult bird, with a chestnut head, which closely agrees with an adult specimen from Japan (mentioned 'Ibis,' 1884, p. 335). Without more specimens it is impossible to give a decided opinion, but I am more than ever disposed to think that the Japanese and Philippine species are distinct from the continental bird. Mr. Oates's remarks (B. Burmah, ii. p. 260) should, however, be consulted.

Through the kindness of Mr. George Martin, of Auchen-dennan, Alexandria, N.B., I have had the opportunity of examining a collection of birds received by him from the Philippine Islands. In the collection I have found a few specimens which are worthy of note.

25. SCELOSTRIX CANDIDA (37).

Luzon, from which it had not previously been recorded.

26. GRAUCALUS STRIATUS (110).

Guimaras : it does not appear to have been recorded from this island before.

27. PERICROCOTUS NOVUS, sp. nov.

An apparently undescribed species of *Pericrocotus*, of the *P. flammeus* group, obtained in the province of Isabella, in Northern Luzon, was in the collection. The specimen was a male, but unfortunately it was lost in going through the post to Mr. R. B. Sharpe. I omitted to take a description of it previous to sending it; but as I have no doubt in my own mind of the distinctness of the species, I do not hesitate

to bestow on it the title of *Pericrocotus novus*. It belongs to the *P. flammeus* group, and is most nearly allied to *P. exsul* of Java.

28. STURNIA VIOLACEA (252).

Luzon, to which new.

29. CALORNIS PANAYENSIS (255).

Guimaras. Not previously recorded thence.

30. ARDETTA SINENSIS.

Luzon. Not recorded before from Luzon.

XXII.—On a Collection of Birds from the vicinity of Muscat.

By R. BOWDLER SHARPE, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c., Zoological Department, British Museum of Natural History.

(Plate VI.)

FOR the collection here described the British Museum is indebted to the kindness of Colonel Miles, and the interest which attaches to any series of birds from a new locality is certainly not wanting in the present instance. The only information we possess up to the present concerning the ornithology of this part of Arabia is contained in a short reference in Mr. Hume's diary of his expedition to Sind and the Mekran coast ('Stray Feathers,' i. pp. 144-166). Mr. Hume was at Muscat on the 22nd of February, 1872, and stayed till the evening of the 24th. Beyond a few Gulls and sea-birds, he found on shore only some Common Sandpipers, Egyptian Vultures, Ospreys, Ravens, Sparrows, Turtle-Doves, and a Kingfisher; but it was of course impossible for him in such a short visit to get into the interior, where, however, he was informed, there were many birds. We hope soon to receive from Colonel Miles some further particulars as to the exact localities where the specimens were procured, but meanwhile I have thought it of some interest to give a list of the species.

Where the species have not been mentioned in the British Museum 'Catalogue of Birds,' I have referred to Mr. Hume's "List of Indian Birds," published in 'Stray Feathers' for